Coraline Text Response

Explain how the novel Coraline is typical of the gothic form, giving examples.

***Introduction:***

The novel Coraline by Neil Gaiman tells the story of a girl learning to be brave and independent and understand what true goodness is. The author uses many elements of the gothic genre to explore these themes such as a fallen and decayed other world, an evil main character, supernatural events and beings and much suspense.

***Main Body Paragraph 1:***

T.S. – A challenging world for Coraline to discover her true self is depicted in the other world in this novel.

E – This world resembles the real world, but some places have become very typical of settings in the gothic genre so that for instance the crazy old man’s flat now smells of rotten food.

Add three more examples in here and explain how they are typical of the gothic genre.

Finish with a linking Sentence that sums up what you said in the paragraph.

***Main Body paragraph 2:***

T.S. – One of the main ways that Coraline learns to be brave is through confronting the other mother who is typical of evil main characters in gothic novels.

E – The other mother is very powerful and she wants control over everything.

Put three examples in here of the other mother’s evil nature and power

Finish with a linking Sentence that sums up what you said in the paragraph

***Main body paragraph 3:***

T.S. – Supernatural events typical of the gothic genre are used by Gaiman to test and develop Coraline’s courage.

E - Coraline has to face many challenges, but she says to herself that she is brave even when faced with being shut in a cupboard with spirits.

Describe.

* Add another example of Coraline’s bravery.

(E) Her bravest moment could be when she tricks the other mother’s hand that has an eerie life of its own. Describe.

Add another example of a supernatural event.

Finish with a linking Sentence that sums up what you said in the paragraph

***Main body paragraph 4:***

T.S. – Suspense typical of gothic novels is created in Coraline to help the reader feel the fear that Coraline must face.

E - Two of the most suspenseful and frightful moments in the novel are when Coraline has to put her hand into the ‘sac, like a spider’s egg-case’ to find a lost soul and she faces the old man who seems to be composed of rate.

E - Explain why these passages are frightening –actually give examples of words and phrases that make these sections frightening.

Finish with a linking Sentence that sums up what you said in the paragraph

***Conclusion:***

By using elements typical of the gothic genre such as a confronting other world, an evil possessive other mother, strange other worldly events and plenty of exciting description Neil Gaiman effectively explores how a young girl starts to move towards being an adult.